

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

In Figure 32, reference numeral “40” in the right side of the circuit has been replaced with “40a”, in order to clarify the circuit elements shown therein.

The specification has been amended accordingly.

Applicant is attaching hereto replacement Figure 32 (marked in the top margin as “Second Replacement Sheet No. 25”), wherein such amendment has been made.

Furthermore, Applicant has noted that, when the application was published as US Patent Publication No. 2006/0197587, on September 7, 2006, through an oversight the Office failed to include in the published application Figures 2-11.

Accordingly, applicant is attaching hereto original sheets No. 3-12 containing Figures 2-11 and asks that they be inserted into the application so that, when this application is issued as a patent, it will include the original sheets No. 3-12 containing Figures 2-11.

Attachments: Replacement Figure 32;
 original sheets No. 3-12 containing Figures 2-11.

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed October 12, 2007 in connection with the above identified US patent application; Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given the application.

SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended in order to correct some oversights and typographical errors.

No new matter has been added.

In particular, regarding the amendment of the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 1, the addition of word "NOT" in the second line is clearly supported by the rest of the paragraph: the paragraph, indeed, discloses the kinds of output that can be obtained in the circuits of figures 3-6, according to the fact that resistors 600, 601 are used or not. The outputs disclosed in the first part of the paragraph are clearly the outputs obtained in case resistors 600, 601 are not used, whereas the output disclosed in the second part of the paragraph (sentence beginning with "*if resistors 600 and 601 are used*") are the outputs obtained by using such resistors.

Moreover, two different references ("fourth stage 40" and "fifth stage 40a") have been used to identify two distinct stages shown in figure 32.

Also in this case no new matter has been added, since no new elements or devices have been introduced: the amendment relates merely to the way in which the stages in figure 32 are referred to.

Figure 32 has been amended accordingly.

Moreover, Applicant has noted that, when the application was published as US Patent Publication No. 2006/0197587, on September 7, 2006, through an oversight the expression <frequency "fo"> at page 5, line 9 of the clean version of the substitute specification, has been misspelled as <frequency "of"> in paragraph [11], line 12 of the application as published.

Therefore Applicant respectfully requests that, when the application is printed as a patent, such expression be corrected, so that it will recite <frequency "fo">.

Furthermore, Applicant has noted that, when the application was published as US Patent Publication No. 2006/0197587, on September 7, 2006, through an oversight the word "/S" has been inserted in paragraph [188], at the end of the second line.

Such word was not present in the clean version of the substitute specification: please see page 61, lines 14-15 of the clean version of the substitute specification.

Therefore Applicant respectfully requests that, when the application is printed as a patent, such word be deleted, so that it will not be included in the issued patent.

CLAIMS

Claims 201-223 and 230, 231 have been allowed.

By the above amendment, claims 224-227 have been amended.

New claims 232-238 have been added.

It is to be noted that in amending the claims no new matter has been introduced, since clear support for the above amendments can be clearly found in the application as filed.

In particular, the subject matter of amended claims 224-227 was included in previously presented claims 224-227; the subject matter of new claim 232 comprises part of the subject matter of previously presented claim 227.

The subject matter of new claims 233-234 can be found in the drawings (figs. 12, 13, 13a, 14-21, 23-29) and in the description (page 11, line 20 - page 12 line 12 of the substitute specification).

The subject matter of new claim 235 can be found in the drawings (figs. 30, 35-37) and in the description (page 52 line 1- page 54 line 2; page 56, line 15 - page 57, line 8).

The subject matter of new claims 236-238 can be found in the drawings (figs. 25-29) and in the description (page 43, line 4 - page 51, line 19) of the substitute specification.

Please note that new claims 232-238 have been added for further identification of what the applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejections - U.S.C. 35 § 112

Previously presented claims 224-227 were rejected as being indefinite and not clear.

By the above amendments, such rejections have been overcome: part of the rejected claims have been rephrased, in order to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter for which protection is sought.

In particular, some alternatives ("or") have been cancelled, the expressions "the respective ones" and "ones" have been cancelled or replaced by a clearer wording.

Also the "first connecting branch" and the "second connecting branch" have been clearly identified.

Since the rejections concerning claims 224-227 are overcome, also the rejection concerning claims 228-229 is overcome, since claims 228-229 were rejected for the sole reason that they depend from claim 224, which was rejected.

DRAWINGS

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Conclusion

All matters having been addressed above and in view of the pending claims and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner’s reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Applicant’s counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

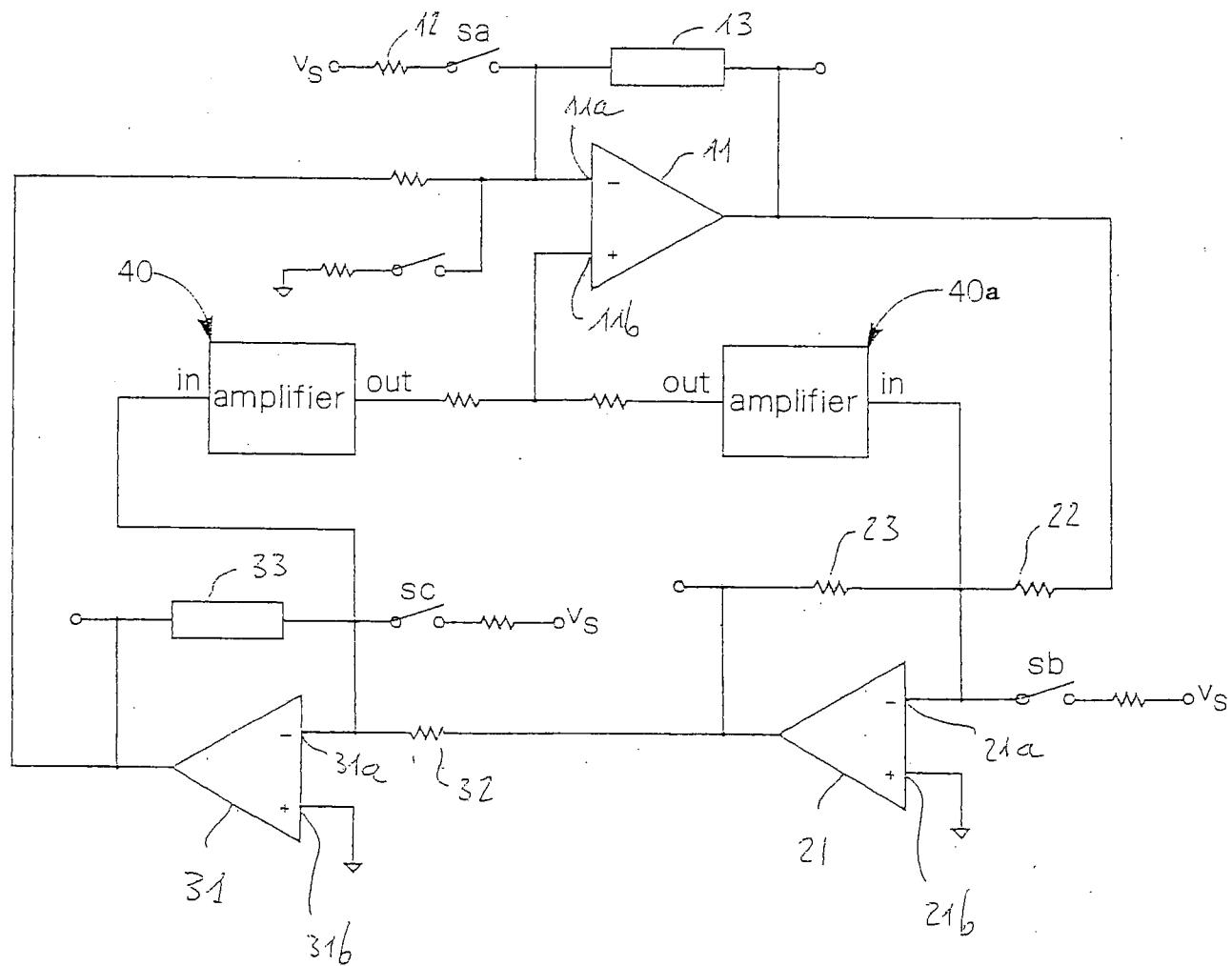
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Date: Jan. 14, 2008

FIG. 32



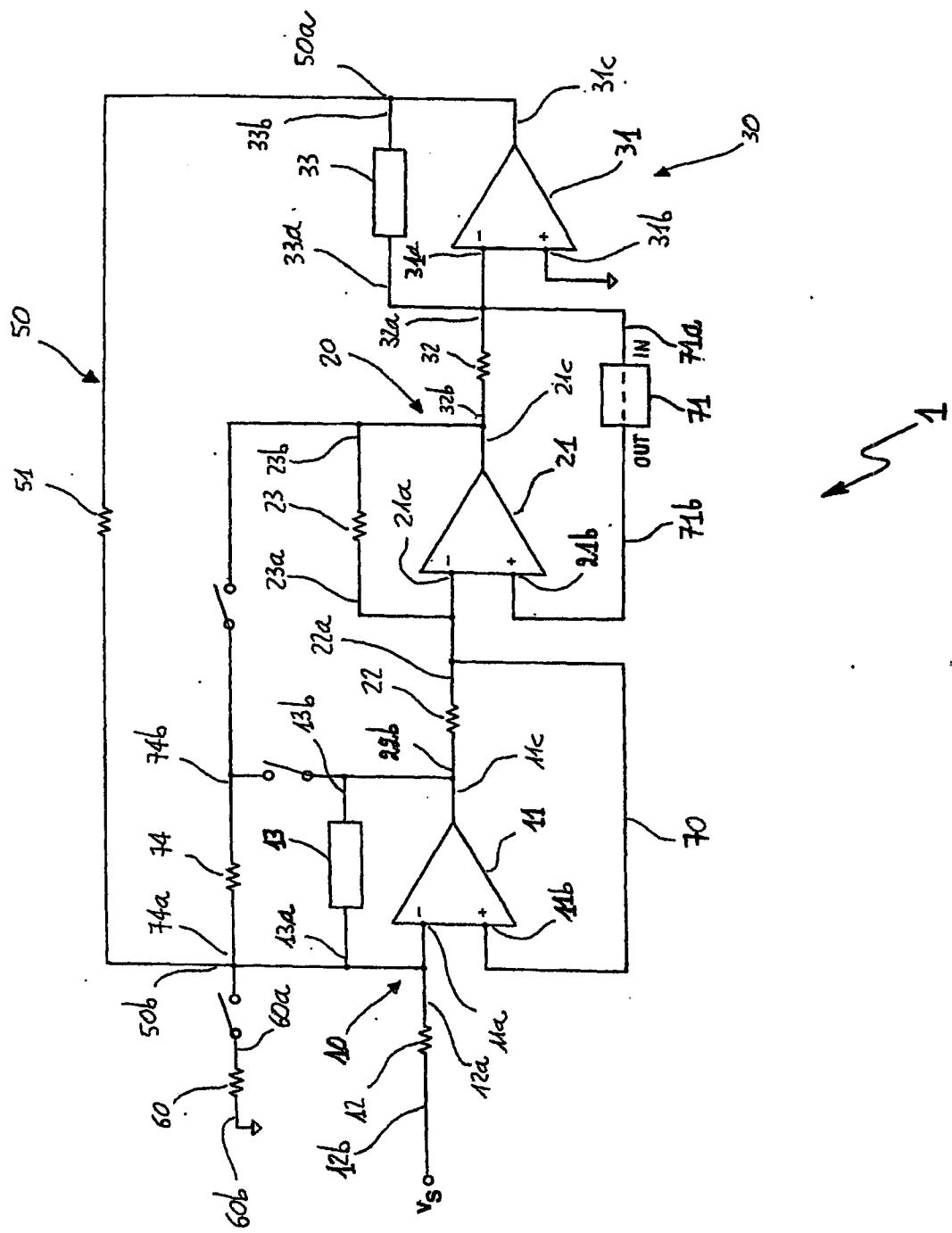


fig. 2

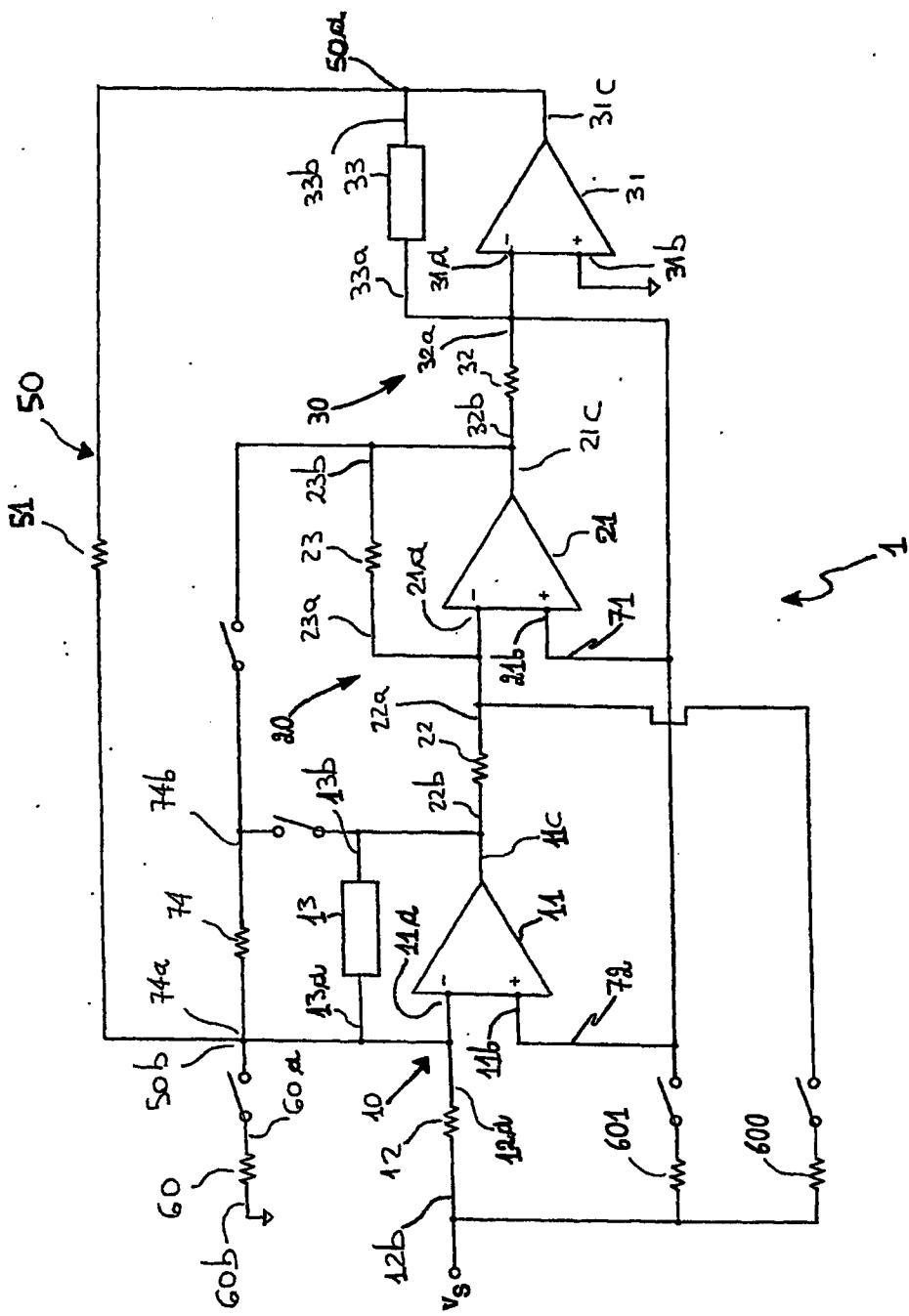


fig. 3

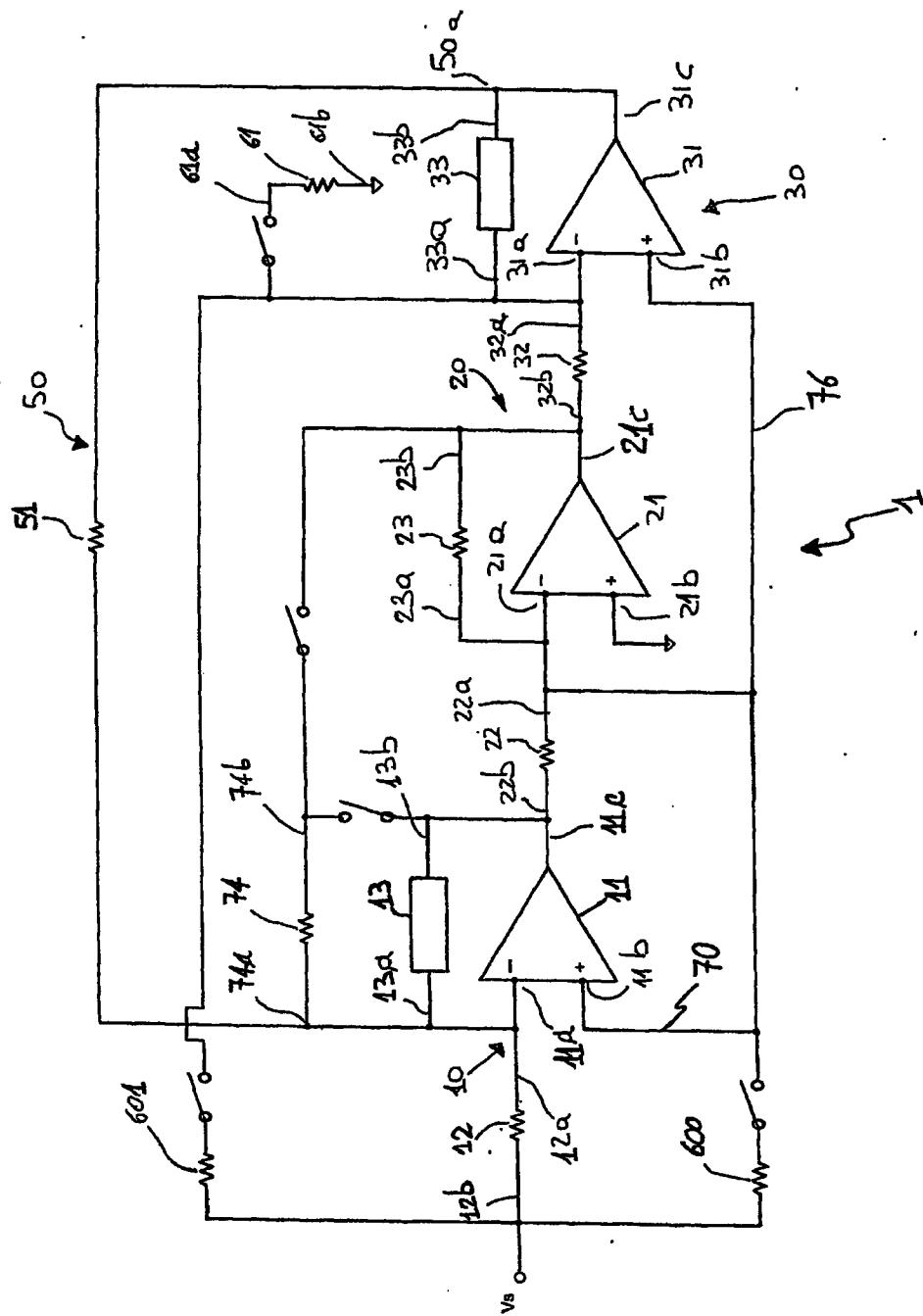


fig. 4

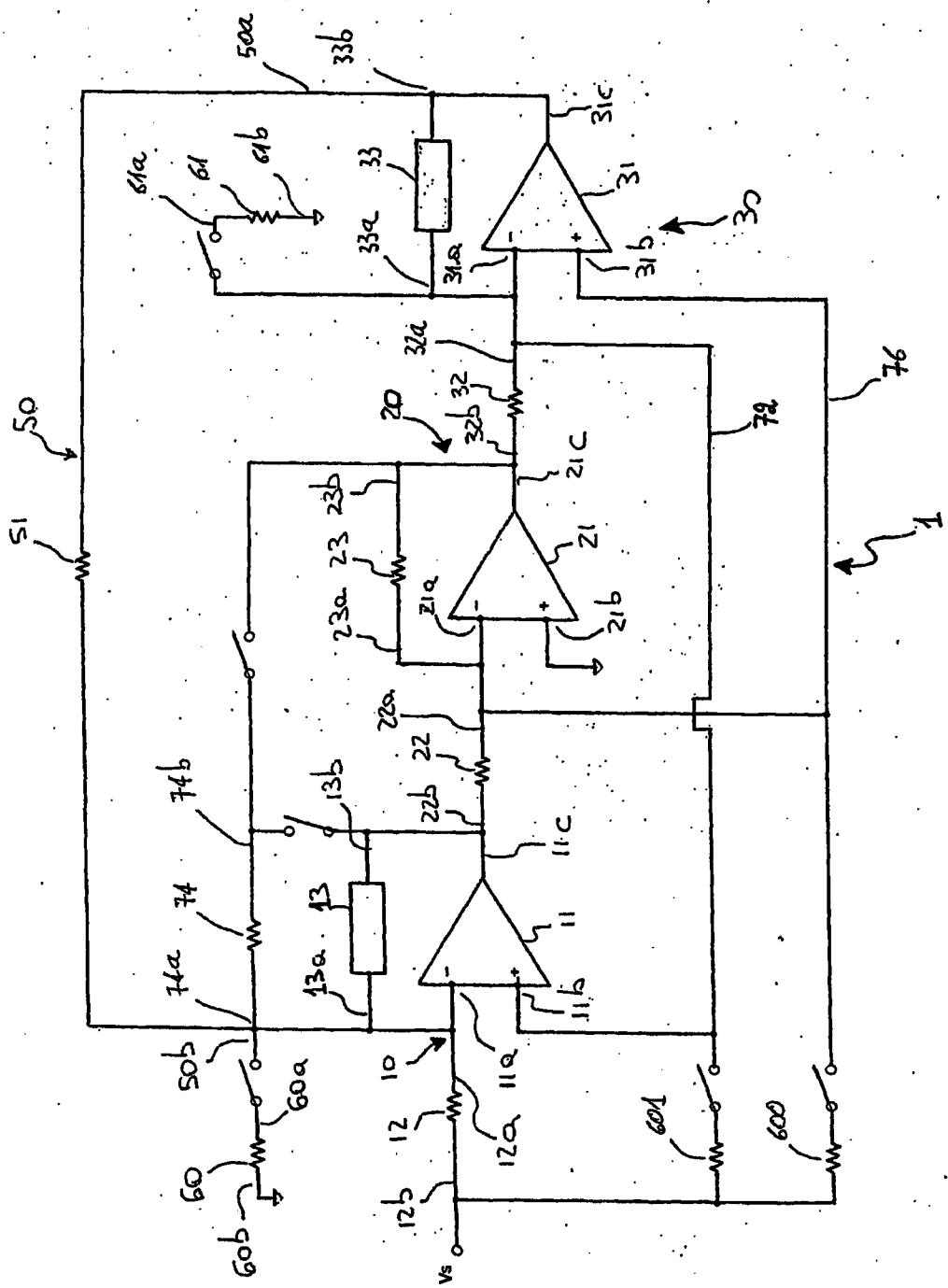


fig. 5

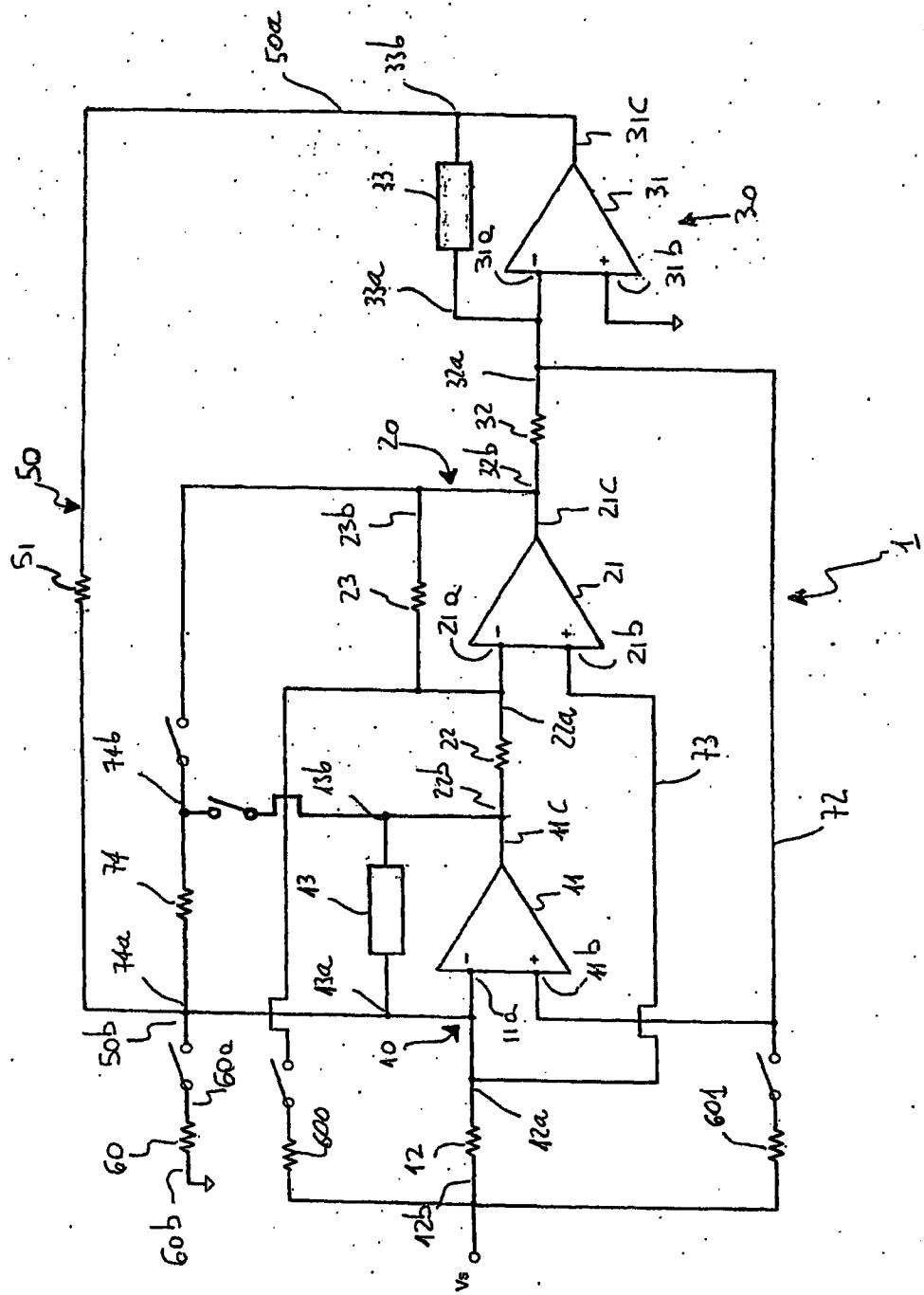


fig. 6

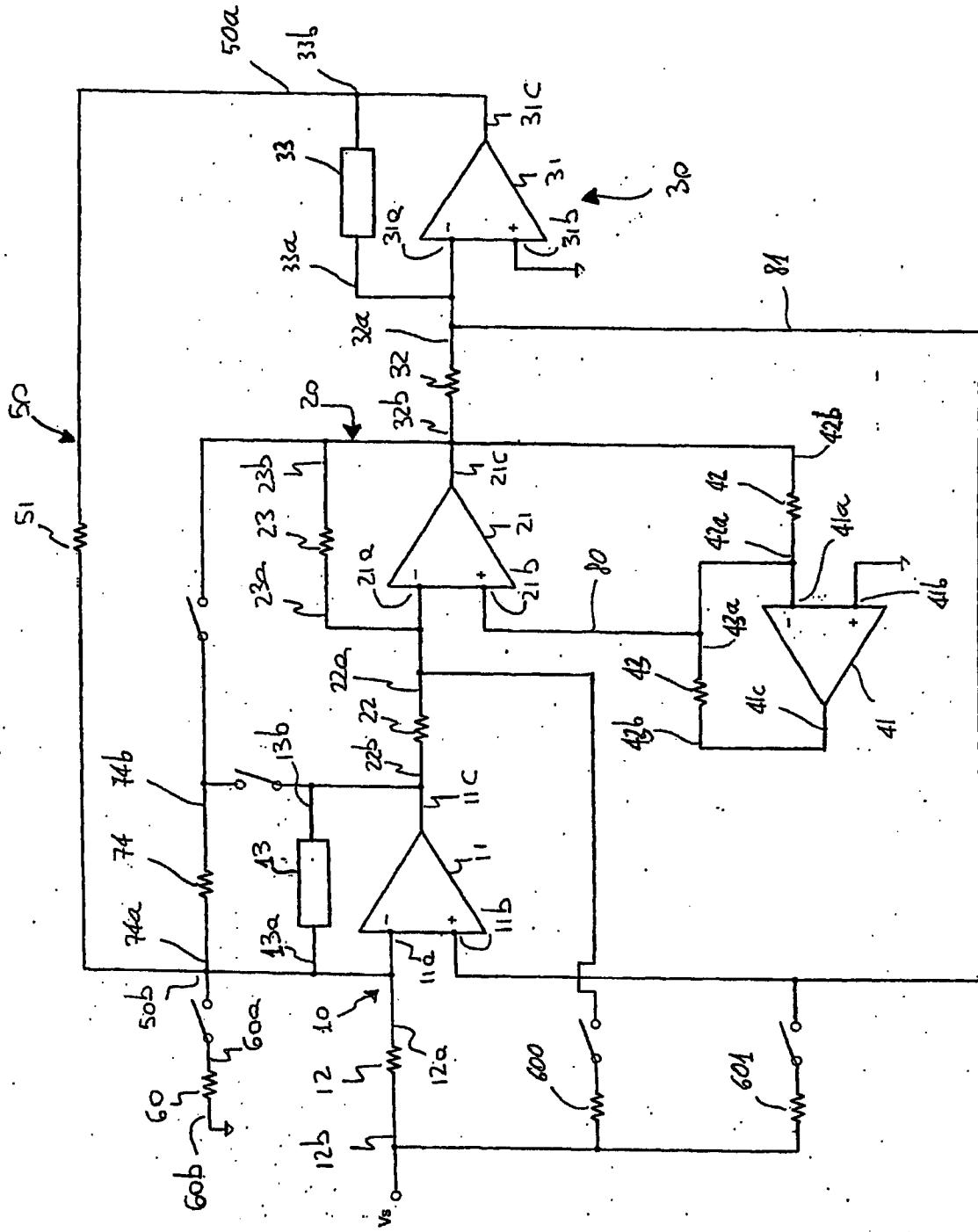


fig. 7

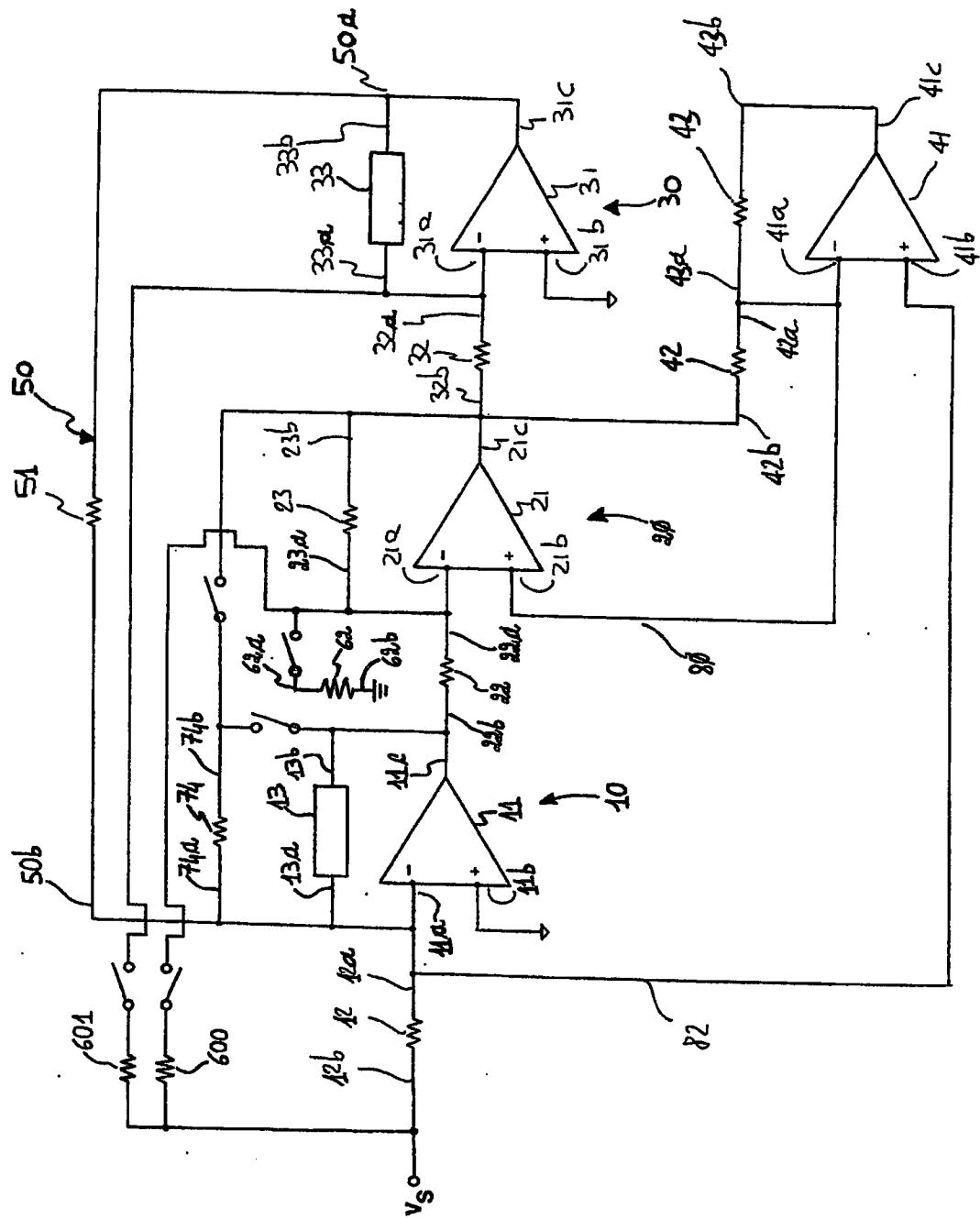


fig. 8

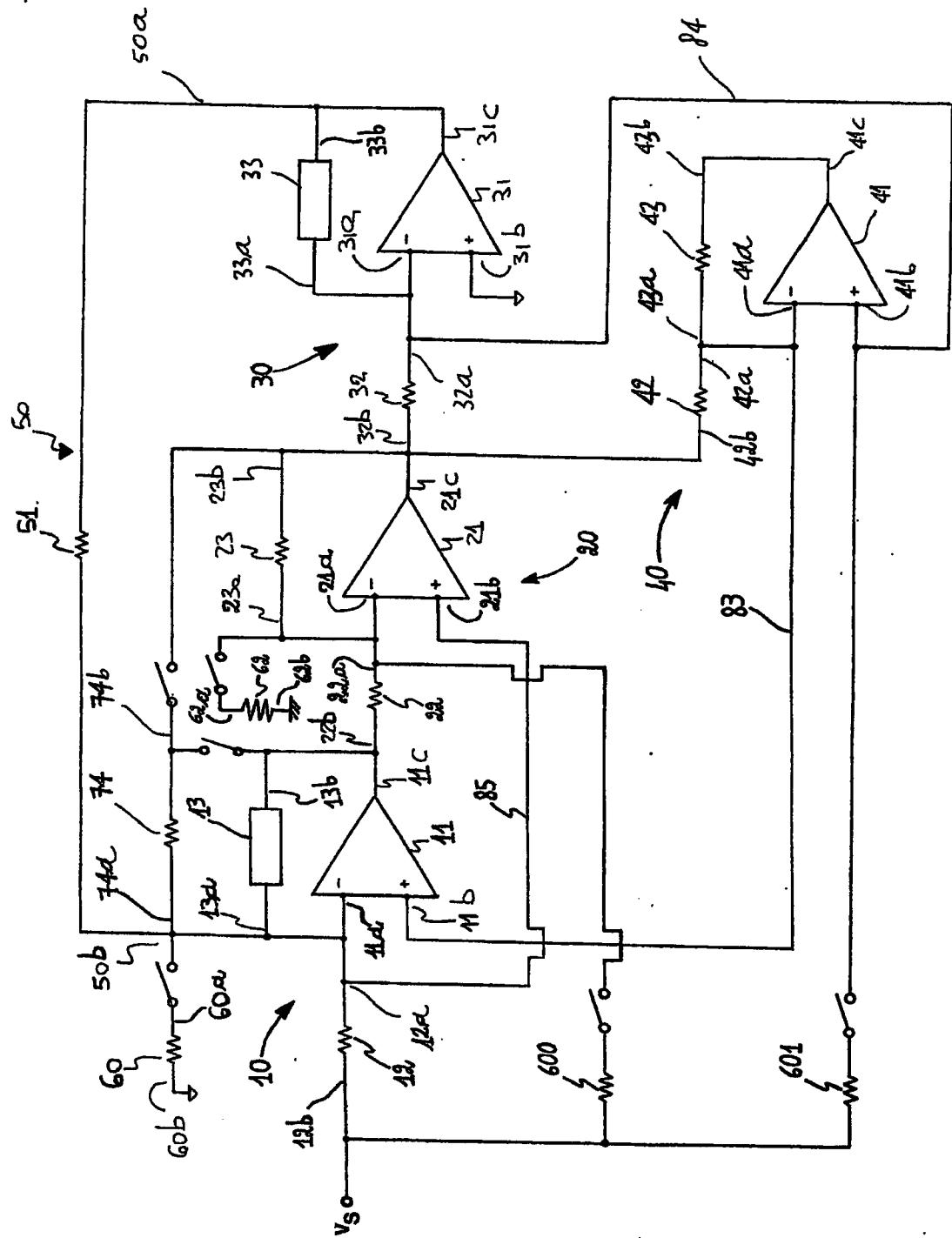


fig. 9

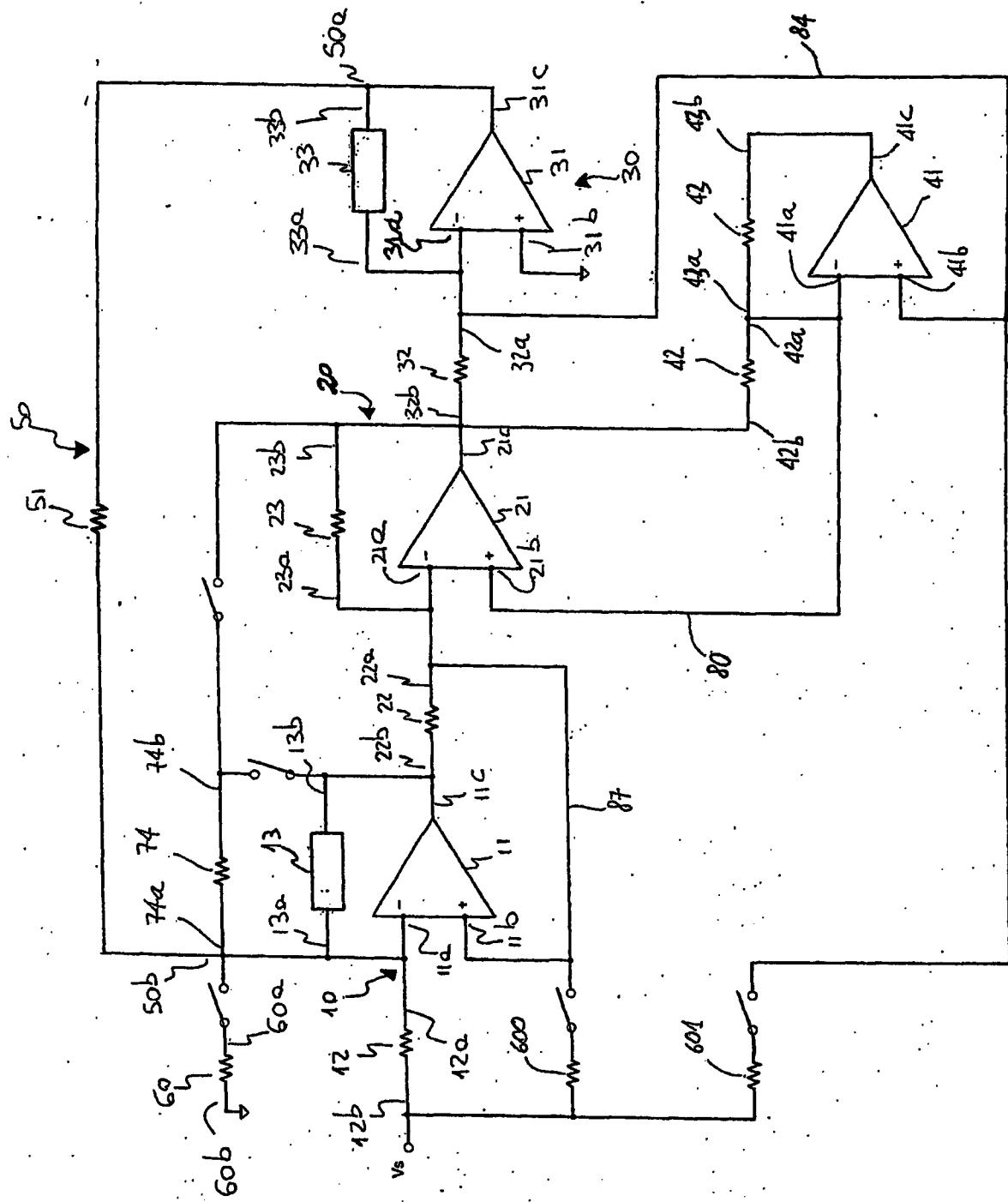


fig. 10

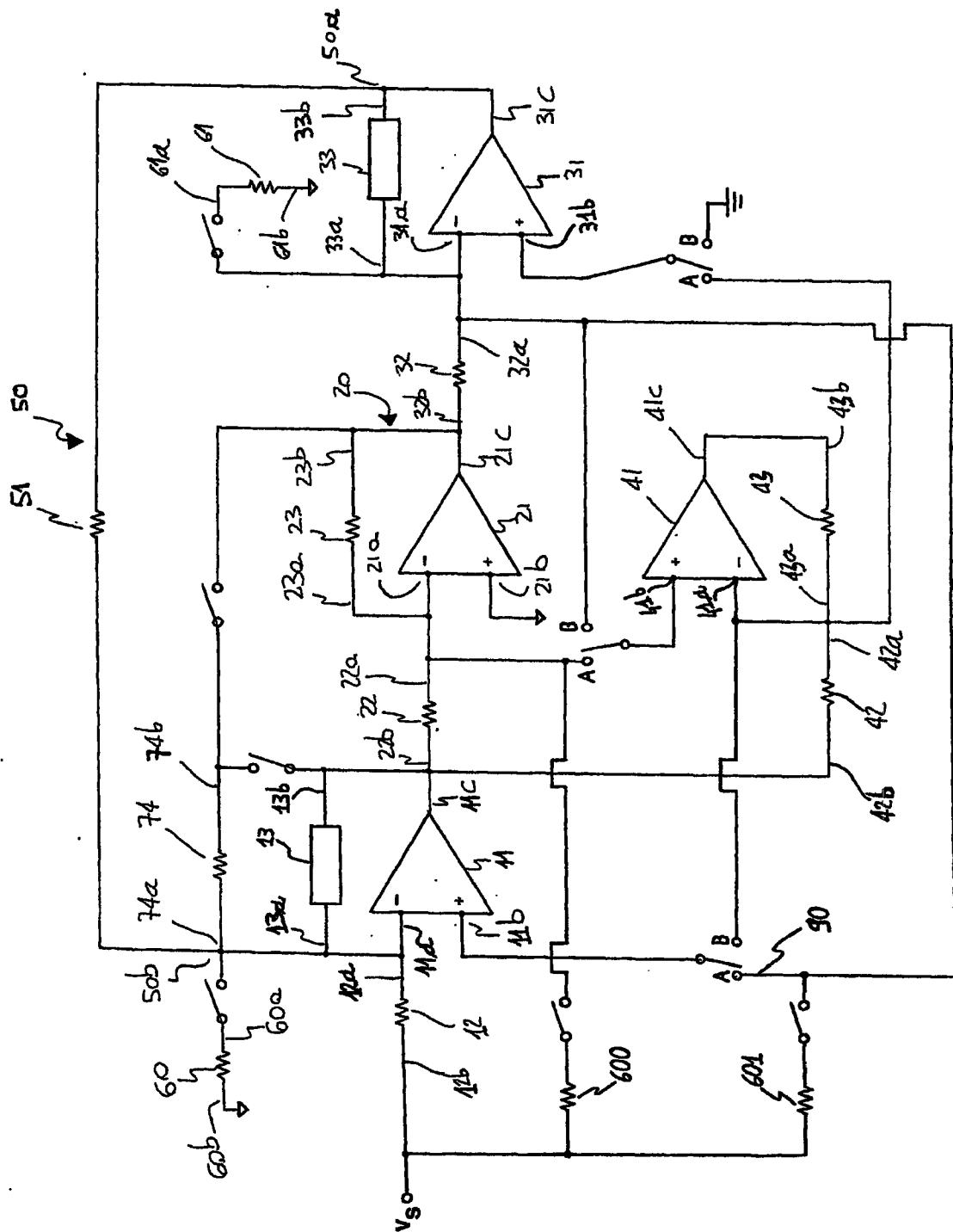


fig. 11